

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01

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FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 305

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 026

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0359

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

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TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ASAD'S APRIL 7 SPEECH ON OCCASION 27TH
ANNIVERSARY FOUNDATION BAATH PARTY

1. ON APRIL 7, THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE BAATH PARTY, PRESIDENT ASAD MADE SOME "OFF-THE-CUFF" REMARKS AS A RESULT OF AUDIENCE DEMANDS. (ASAD WAS NOT ON THE PROGRAM, BUT AFTER ALL THE OTHER SPEECHES, THE AUDIENCE BEGAN SHOUTING, "WE WANT A WORD, O HAFEZ.") THE FOLLOWING IS OUR FREE TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT WHICH APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER. (NOTE: UNDER BAATH PARTY IDEOLOGY, ARAB COUNTRIES ARE TERMED "REGIONS" OF ONE "ARAB NATION.")

2. "WE SHOULD BE PROUD AND BE PLEASED NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE BAATHISTS BUT AS ARAB CITIZENS IN THIS REGION AND ALL REGIONS ON THIS OCCASION. ON THIS OCCASION THERE IS NOTHING BETTER TO SAY THAN TO ASSURE TO OUR PEOPLE IN THIS REGION AND ALL ARAB CITIZENS WHEREVER THEY ARE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH ALL WE POSSESS AND WE POSSESS A LOT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH THIS NOT ONLY FOR THIS REGION BUT FOR THE DIGNITY OF EACH MEMBER OF THIS NATION. AS WE KNOW, HEARD, AND SAW, THE ENEMY DEVELOPED ITS FIGHTING DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS WITH AN AIM TO APPLY MORE PRESSURE, TO INTIMIDATE US, AND TO PROHIBIT US FROM PROCEEDING-- ALL OF THIS WITH AN AIM TO DEFEATING THE ARAB NATION. THE ENEMY ATTEMPT TO PROHIBIT OUR CONTINUING ON THIS LINE CONTINUES TO AIM TO DEFEAT US EVEN WITH POLITICAL ACTION EVEN IF HE WAS UNABLE TO DO SO WITH MILITARY ACTION LAST OCTOBER.

3. "TODAY THE ENEMY USED TANKS, PLANES, AND ARTILLERY AND ALSO USED ITS SOLDIERS. NOW AT THIS MOMENT AS I SPEAK OUR FORCES ARE CLASHING WITH THE ENEMY AT MORE THAN ONE POST ON MR. HERMON...OUR SOLDIERS ARE SYMBOLS OF BRAVERY AND SACRIFICE.
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I TRUST AND THEY TRUST THAT THE ENEMY WILL NOT BE ABLE, DESPITE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES PROVIDED BY SUPPORTING FORCES WHICH STAND BEHIND THIS ENEMY, CANNOT PROHIBIT OUR HOLDING OUR HEADS UP TO THE SKY. IN YOUR NAME AND IN THE NAME OF THE ARMED FORCES, I AFFIRM THAT THERE ARE NO FORCES IN THIS WORLD WHICH CAN CONQUER US AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PREPARE OUR PEOPLE, TO TRAIN OUR CITIZENS, AND

TO PREPARE OUR ARMED FORCES AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR INSISTENCE. WE WILL CONTINUE ALL OF THIS UNTIL THE REALIZATION OF THE VICTORY--THE SURE VICTORY.

4. "SOME OF OUR ARAB BROTHERS HAVE SAID OUR ATTITUDE IS TOO STRONG. I READ SOME OF THESE WORDS IN SOME ARAB PRESS AND YOU HAVE READ THEM TOO. IF THE ADHERENCE TO THE DIGNITY OF THIS NATION MEANS A STRONG ATTITUDE, IF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE TERRITORIES AND IF THE REFUSAL OF THE OCCUPATION MEANS A STRONG ATTITUDE, IF THIS HONORABLE ATTITUDE IN DEFENDING THE HOMELAND MEANS A STRONG ATTITUDE, IF THE REFUSAL OF THE DEFEAT MEANS A STRONG ATTITUDE, IF ALL OF THESE MEAN A STRONG ATTITUDE, THEN WE HAVE A STRONG ATTITUDE.

5. "IT SEEMS THAT AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR THERE WAS TALK ABOUT THE NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF POLITICAL (WORD USED ALSO MEANS DIPLOMATIC) ACTION. IT SEEMS THIS TALK WAS MISINTERPRETED AND MISUNDERSTOOD. THERE ARE SOME IN THE ARAB HOMELAND WHO UNDERSTAND POLITICAL ACTION AS MEANING TO THROW AWAY OUR WEAPONS AND THE NECESSITY TO REACH A SOLUTION--ANY SOLUTION. POLITICAL ACTION IS A NECESSARY AIM TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION NOT ANY SOLUTION. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, IT AIMS TO REALIZE AN HONORABLE SOLUTION--A SOLUTION WHICH REALIZES JUSTICE AND NOTHING BUT JUSTICE. THAT IS THE WAY WE UNDERSTAND POLITICAL ACTION. ON THIS BASIS WE WILL EXERCISE AND CONTINUE TO EXERCISE POLITICAL ACTION. FOR THIS AIM WE UNDERSTAND MILITARY ACTION AND FOR THIS AIM WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE MILITARY ACTION. I WISH ALL OF US IN THE BIG
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ARAB HOMELAND TO BE VERY ALERT TO EXERCISE APPROPRIATE ACTION AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND NOT TO LOSE THE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY.

6. "ANOTHER TIME I ASSURED YOU AS I ASSURED YOU ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, AND WHEN I ASSURE YOU, I AM SURE I ASSURE IN YOUR NAME IN THIS REGION, THAT WE WANT THE JUST PEACE AND WE WILL STRUGGLE FOR THIS JUST PEACE, BUT WE DO NOT ACCEPT ANY UNJUST PEACE BECAUSE IN THIS CASE IT MEANS SURRENDER AND NOT PEACE. WE ARE WITH PEACE AND REFUSE SURRENDER. PEACE, AS I HAVE SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS, IS A JUST PEACE BASED ON THE COMPLETE LIBERATION OF TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND SURE GUARANTEE TO THE RIGHTS OF OUR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

7. COMMENT FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.
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